THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) No such statistics showing status-wise break-up of taxpayers and their tax arrears is maintained.

Debt Recovery Tribunals

4179. SHRI K. RAMAMOHANA RAO:Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of additional Debt Recovery Tribunals sanctioned by Government and the number of those have become functional;

(b) the total number of cases pending before the Debt Recovery Tribunals and the total amount involved in such cases; and

(c) what steps Government have taken for providing adequate infrastructure to DRTs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) In addition to 10 Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) sanctioned initially, the Government added 12 more DRTs in the country. The total number of DRTs set up is 22.

(b) As reported by the DRTs, as on 31.12.2000, there were 30152 cases pending before DRTs involving an amount of Rs. 65515.87 crores.

(c) In order to provide adequate infrastructure to DRTs, Government has increased the number of posts from 18 to 30, the area of office accommodation from 3000 sq. ft. to 5000 sq. ft. and by delegating additional administrative and financial powers to Presiding Officers of DRTs by declaring them Head of the Department. This includes powers of the Presiding Officer to recruit staff up to the level of Section Officer. Recently, DRTs have been made entitled to office and residential accommodation from general pool maintained by the Central Government at various places.